

NOVEMBER WHEAT FORECAST, 1940-41. 2,600,000(2,734,595) acres, 19,000,000 (41,071,696) bush. Average 7.3 (15.02) bush. per acre. The acreage shown includes areas which failed or on which stock had been turned. The present estimate is based on district reports. In December a Forecast will be issued based on returns from representative farmers.

RAINFALL - AGRICULTURAL AREAS. Taking the agricultural areas of the State as a whole, the rainfall from April to October was the second driest on record, the total for 1940 being 7.52 inches compared with 5.30 in 1914, and the mean for the previous 35 years of 11.59 inches. Apart from April and July, the monthly falls were much below the mean, the following being the recordings for 1940, 1914 and the mean respectively:-- April 1.74; 1.32; 0.93; May 1.06; 1.06; 1.72; June 0.56; 0.61; 2.09; July 1.95; 1.05; 1.92; August 0.71; 0.26; 2.01; September 0.88; 0.50; 1.64; and October 0.62; 0.50; 1.28 inches.

The early part of October was very unfavorable, but the subsequent weather has been cool and showery with the result that prospects have improved in many districts. The present estimate is based on these improved prospects but is, of course, liable to be affected by the weather from now to the completion of harvest.

The following table has been prepared showing - for each Division - the April-October rainfall compared with the average wheat yield in years of low rainfall and also the 35 years' mean. One outstanding feature is the fact that the Lower and Upper North Divisions obtain higher yields on low rainfalls than do the other Divisions. It will be noticed from the column for the 35 years' mean, that in those Divisions the average yield in bushels is greater than the April-October rainfall in inches whereas the opposite applies in the other Divisions.

RAINFALL AND WHEAT YIELDS IN YEARS OF LOW RAINFALL.

DIVISIONS		1913	1914	1919	1927	1928	1929	1940	Mean
Central	R	10.27	6.96	10.79	11.14	12.28	11.57	10.29	14.82
	W	9.14	2.55	10.11	13.07	11.76	11.48	11.00	13.32
Lower North	R	7.93	4.20	8.41	7.38	8.50	6.76	5.93	13.17
	W	11.01	1.74	12.76	12.39	11.20	9.69	8.1	14.59
Upper North	R	4.35	3.11	5.19	4.49	5.28	3.08	3.27	7.89
	W	4.00	0.29	6.71	5.38	6.34	3.96	3.8	9.31
South Eastern	R	12.36	8.51	13.63	14.23	18.51	18.25	12.42	17.96
	W	11.97	2.61	12.14	21.21	19.54	23.37	15.7	13.55
Western	R	8.07	5.37	7.01	7.68	6.94	7.56	7.10	10.21
	W	4.49	1.22	2.81	6.11	3.66	4.58	7.4	7.06
Murray Mallee	R	7.47	3.35	5.78	5.75	7.41	5.74	6.39	9.44
	W	5.01	0.29	3.08	2.76	6.17	3.02	4.6	7.28
State	R	8.34	5.30	8.16	8.32	9.22	8.60	7.52	11.59
	W	7.47	1.41	7.78	8.18	7.79	6.40	7.3	10.60

R. Rainfall April to October, Inches. W. Wheat Yield, Bushels.

DIVISIONAL YIELDS. Central 4,200,000 (8,283,049). Lower North 5,100,000 (15,339,491). Upper North 750,000 (4,263,218). South Eastern 550,000 (744,652). Western 5,600,000 (8,857,094). Murray Mallee 2,800,000 (3,584,192). Total State 19,000,000 (41,071,696) bushels.